



Rhode Island's Career Resource Network

# News Corner

Volume 1, No. 1

Spring 2002

*Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs*



## Welcome to CRN News Corner

This newsletter is intended for those who assist students or clients with career planning, including school counselors, teachers and other educators, and staff of government and community agencies. It contains announcements of new resources, developments and other information which are of interest to career planners. Initially, the newsletter will be published quarterly. It will be distributed by mail to school guidance directors, school-based coordinators, school-to-career personnel, college career centers, and appropriate government and community agencies. It is also available on the Internet at [www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn).

Contributions and suggestions for improvement are always welcome. They can be faxed to (401) 462-8766 or e-mailed to [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us). We reserve the right to edit contributions with the provider's approval.

### Did you receive your copy of the Rhode Island Career Anchor?

The latest edition of the **Rhode Island Career Anchor** is available on-line or in hard copy form from the Career Resource Network. You can obtain your copy at no charge by calling the CRN at (401) 462-8790 or via the Internet at:



[www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn/anchor.htm](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn/anchor.htm)

This is a great resource for career counselors and job seekers alike.

## What is the Career Resource Network?

Rhode Island's Career Resource Network (CRN) is part of America's Career Resource Network (ACRN), a program established by Congress in 2000 and placed under the U.S. Department of Education. Each state and territory has a Career Resource Network. These work together nationally and regionally to share resources for their mutual benefit. Many of the ACRN programs have been inherited from the former state Occupational Information Coordinating Committees (such as RIOICC in Rhode Island) which closed when ACRN was established.

The mission of ACRN and the related state programs is to "support career guidance and academic counseling programs." This is done by making available to students, parents, teachers, administrators and counselors information and planning resources that relate educational preparation to career goals and expectations. The program also provides teachers, administrators, and counselors with the knowledge and skills needed to assist students and parents with career exploration, educational opportunities, and education financing.

Major activities of the Rhode Island CRN include support for computer-based career planning (described on the next page), publications such as this, and a variety of training programs. These products and programs are intended for educators in school systems, and also for counselors in out-of-school programs which serve adults who are in need of career and education planning assistance.


The CRN is oriented toward both education and labor. Although it is part of the Department of Labor and Training, it works closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in promoting the common interests of these two departments of state government.


## Choices, CX Online, and the Career Information Delivery System (CIDS)


The Rhode Island CRN supports the Choices and CX Online computer programs and other products of Bridges.com, the publisher. In Rhode Island, 24 of the 31 school districts with high schools offer one or more of these products to students.


The CRN provides (1) help in preparing purchase orders, sometimes with special prices available only through the CRN, (2) training, (3) provisions for schools to share activities and lesson plans, and (4) basic technical support.

Contact CRN for information or demonstrations on any of the following products. It is important to contact CRN before ordering any of these products for information on Rhode Island prices and ordering procedure.

 **Choices CT** is a powerful program for students or job seekers which provides assessment tools, career planning tools, information on more than 650 O\*NET occupations and 7,000 post-secondary schools, help with college applications, financial aid, job openings, portfolio management, resume writing, and other topics. The program can be customized to fit the curriculum of each school. An Internet version is available, as is Career Clips, a series of videos of workers in various occupations.

 **Career Aptitude Survey** is a measure of work-related aptitudes for middle school and secondary students and adults. It can be used independently or integrated into Choices CT or Career Futures.

 **CX Online** is an Internet-based program in magazine style format with information on occupations and post-secondary education, plus links to online college applications, financial aid information, a portfolio, and other features.

 **Career Futures** guides middle school and junior high school students through self-awareness activities, helping them explore careers and make informed high school plans. It can be customized to fit the program of each school.

Most states have similar computer-based programs, which are often referred to as "Career Information Delivery Systems" (CIDS). Standards for CIDS programs are established by the Association of Computer-Based Systems for Career Information (ACSCI), of which the Rhode Island CRN is a member.

## Occupational Focus:

# Licensed Practical Nurse



**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES (LPN's)** care for ill, injured, convalescent and disabled persons in hospitals, clinics, private homes, sanitariums and similar institutions.

The average wage for this occupation in R.I. in 1999 was \$17.15 per hour. This would be equivalent to \$2,973 per month or \$35,672 per year, assuming a 40-hour week worked the year around.


The estimated number of LPN's employed in R.I. in 1998 was 2,419. It is projected that in 2008 there will be 2,717. This represents a growth rate of 12.3% over this period, faster than the 11.8% growth rate for all occupations in R.I. Growth plus replacement needs are estimated to average about 82 openings per year. This does not, however, take into account how many workers will be competing for these openings.

In 1998, the industry with the highest employment of LPN's was Health Services, which accounted for 85% of the total employment of this occupation. The next largest industry for this occupation was Social Services, with 6% of employment. The third largest was Business Services, with 3% of employment.

This occupation requires formal training and licensing. The Community College of Rhode Island offers courses and programs in Nursing at all of its local campuses.

For more information on LPN's, including job duties, required skills, and more, visit the LMI for Job Seekers and Students module at:

[www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker).

 **Paws in Jobland** is for elementary school students to develop awareness of careers. Students consider their interests and different kinds of work environments.



# What's New in the CRN Corner?



*The 2001-2002 Rhode Island Career Anchor* has been distributed in quantity to schools, government offices and community agencies. In addition, it can be accessed on the Internet at [www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn). A limited number of additional copies are available at no charge on a first come - first served basis. Your comments on the new format and contents are welcome; send them by fax, e-mail, or snail mail to the CRN.

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*Rhode Island Occupational License* information, updated through the fall of 2001, is now available on the Internet at several web sites:

- [www.dlt.state.ri.us/](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/) (scroll to "Labor Market Information," click on "occupations in Rhode Island which require licensing")
- [www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker) (for job seekers and students) (select "Occupations," "State of Rhode Island," select desired occupation, "Licensed Occupations")
- [www.dlt.state.ri.us/analyzer](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/analyzer) (for business and research) (select "Occupations," then "Licensed Occupations")
- [www.acinet.org/acinet](http://www.acinet.org/acinet), America's Career Kit (click on "Licensed Occupations") This site also includes license information from other states.
- [www.ri.gov](http://www.ri.gov) (click on "Business," "Professional Licensing," then "Handbook of Licensed, Certified and Registered Occupations")

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The Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, in collaboration with Rhode Island's LMI Unit is conducting a series of *Workshops on Relating Labor Market Information to Career Placement and Workforce Development*. The primary purpose of the curriculum is to create a shared conceptual framework and common language among the practitioners who deliver quality career counseling and employment referrals across a spectrum of client groups. These workshops are designed to benefit counselors, educators, economic developers and job developers at various levels of expertise.

The second session of *Facilitating Career Development* will be offered as ten full-day classes in July and August. The first session, which started in October 2001, ended with graduation on March 6. As soon as complete details on the July/August classes are available, announcements will be mailed to schools and community and government agencies and posted on the CRN web site. Call 401-462-8746 or e-mail [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us) if you wish to be on the mailing list for this announcement.

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*Occupational Wage Data* collected by the Labor Market Information (LMI) Unit of the Department of Labor and Training have been updated and posted on the LMI web site at [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi). The data are also available in printed format.

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Rhode Island's Jobseeker Internet application, [www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/jobseeker), now includes information from the *O\*NET System*, on abilities required, job duties, knowledge required, skills required, tasks, and work activities.

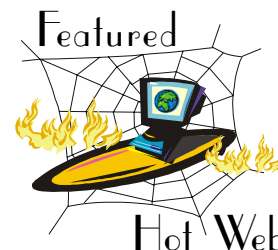
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*Trends in the Rhode Island Labor Market* is available in pdf format on the LMI Web Site at [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi) (click on "LMI Products"). This report includes information on industry trends and projections, occupational projections, wage data, labor force movements, population shifts, and demographics. It is compiled annually by the staff of the Labor Market Information Unit.



## A Web Site Worth Surfing:

# Rhode Island Higher Education's Preparing for College



There are literally millions of web sites out there, and many (thousands?) are related to career planning. The Rhode Island Career Resource Network becomes aware of useful sites almost every day. We will select one which is particularly useful in career planning and recommend it for your consideration in each issue of this newsletter. The Rhode Island Office of Higher Education, which has responsibility for the state-supported institutions of higher education in Rhode Island, has prepared an outstanding and very comprehensive web site for Rhode Island students, parents, and educators.

The focus of *Preparing for College* is encouraging students to make the most of middle school and high school years and beyond to help ensure success in post-secondary education. Explanations are more complete than in most other web sites. There is a focus on Rhode Island, especially the state supported institutions, although others are also well covered.

Why one should consider college and plan ahead in course selection, activities, grades, and financing are followed by sections on career planning (accurately pointing out that many students do not select a career until after entering college), information on Rhode Island education resources, college selection, SAT or ACT preparation, and available financial aid. One section introduces Rhode Island programs which help students build their skills and knowledge. Another section provides resources for "teachers, guidance counselors, and others who advise students."

Throughout the program, there are many links to other useful web sites. This program was developed in 1998 and last updated in April 2000. It is a 'must' site for Rhode Island students, parents, and those who help them with planning.



The Rhode Island Office of Higher Education  
*Preparing for College*  
*A guide for students, families, and educators*

Find Preparing for College at:  
[www.ribghe.org/col-prep.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/col-prep.htm)

**Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner?  
Do you have information that you'd like us to publish? If so, please write, call, fax or  
e-mail us at:**



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